

Policy panics some faculty; others secure

Andrews argues 'no hidden agenda' with proposal

SARAH PERRY — Editor

A "political perfect storm" has hit the faculty at MSU.

In addition to the worries surrounding proposed state budget cuts, a curriculum audit that could eliminate programs, and general education reforms that could eliminate positions, MSU faculty now have a new concern.

A new policy proposed by MSU President Wayne Andrews and recently sent to faculty, outlines how tenured faculty are terminated in the cases of financial exigency and discontinuation or reduction of programs.

PAC-35, (Policy Action-35) the

revised version of PAC-26, has created fear among some faculty. Faculty Senate Chair Eric Jerde said when he first heard about PAC-35, he knew it would "open a Pandora's box."

"I don't disagree with the reasoning behind bringing these forward - it's just very unfortunate timing," Jerde said. "The budget situation makes people really afraid for their jobs. Then all of a sudden you use the word financial exigency, which is one of the ways you can terminate tenured faculty, and that's what makes people all of a sudden afraid."

President Andrews and Provost Karla Hughes presented Jerde and

other Faculty Senate executive council members with PAC-35 on Feb. 19. Jerde said when he received it, he knew the impression would be that the administration had "already made some decisions" regarding faculty positions.

"I figured that would be the perception and largely that has been the reaction," he said. "But I believe the president on this one."

Andrews said the action was not pre-planned and PAC-26 needed to be revised to address the possible budget cuts. The process to terminate faculty would take at least six months under provisions in PAC-26, and if faculty were to be terminated, they wouldn't be

notified until September, when it is already too late, he said.

"This is not a way for the administration to gain control of something we don't have," Andrews said. "It's just a response to the worst-case situation."

He said there is no "hidden agenda," and declaring financial exigency is extremely unlikely, but MSU needs to be prepared.

The administration started on this with the reality we might have a difficult financial situation," he said. "PAC-26 would be extremely difficult to work with in a timely manner. (Financial exigency) is the last resort - it's like

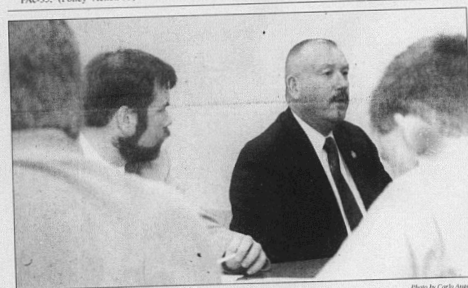
the president having his hand on nuclear missiles in the White House. You'd do everything possible to avoid the situation."

Michael Harford, chair of the Faculty Senate fiscal affairs committee, said "tenure is important to society as a whole" and without it, faculty are not free to speak in the classroom.

The role of the Faculty Senate is to make the best case for the "way things ought to be" regarding tenure, he said. Harford doesn't think President Andrews is trying to boot tenure out the door, but is setting up a policy that might allow future presidents to do just that.

"That's why getting rid of people who are tenured, even under circumstances like this, allows someone to go, 'I'm the president, I don't like what you have to say so I'm going to

SEE POLICY — PAGE 2



Police chief candidate Kenneth Adams answers student questions during Tuesday's forum. At left, Dean of Students Kevin Koett observes.

Search for new police chief nearing end

CARLO ANGERER — PhotoSports Editor

Morehead State University is wrapping up its search for a new campus police chief.

During the past week, Dean of Students Kevin Koett hosted forums where students, faculty and staff could interview and get to know the final three candidates for the position.

All candidates are law enforcement veterans from Eastern Kentucky and each has more than a

decade of experience.

Rodney L. Coffey was on campus Feb. 25. Coffey began his law enforcement career 13 years ago with the MSU Police Department and was named MSU Police Officer of the Year in 1996. He was elected sheriff of Menflee County seven years ago and said he would give up that position to serve as police chief for MSU.

"At this time in my career it

would be good to come back home where I started," he said.

In 2003 Coffey received the Kentucky Sheriff of the Year Award. He said he wants to bring excitement to MSU as well.

"I would come in, always give it 110 percent and strive to make it one of the best departments in the state. It would be nice to receive a few awards for this department," he said.

SEE SEARCH — PAGE 2

Changes impact faculty dismissal

SARAH PERRY — Editor

The MSU Faculty Senate is rushing to meet a March 6 deadline set by the president for drafting a new policy that governs how tenured faculty are released in the case of financial exigency and the discontinuation or reduction of programs.

MSU President Wayne Andrews said the state budget crisis prompted him to take a hard look at personnel policies to determine if they are "workable" when money is tight.

After reviewing the policy, Andrews said he determined PAC-26, the policy in place now, would not be timely if the budget cuts call for faculty to be terminated.

PAC-26 would not allow the university time to properly notify faculty if they were to be released, Andrews said. Under the current policy, the process of terminating tenured faculty if financial exigency is declared could take up to six months - which would put MSU into the full semester to make cuts if the final budget is not announced until April 15.

"If we're in a financial crisis and we don't know until April 15, we'd be into September," Andrews said. "We might have people on the roster (and) we might not have the money to pay them to do their job."

Andrews said he asked Mike Walters, vice president for Administration and Fiscal Services,

and Jane Fitzpatrick, general counsel for MSU, to draft a new policy, titled PAC-35.

The revised PAC-35 condenses the time it takes to declare financial exigency and to dismiss faculty, he said, adding the likelihood of announcing exigency is extremely unlikely.

"In painting the worst-case scenario, I don't feel we would declare financial exigency, but we might have to reduce programs," Andrews said.

Andrews said financial exigency is not defined in either policy because it is almost "impossible." And he alone cannot declare exigency.

"The Board of Regents is the only body that can declare financial exigency — not Wayne Andrews," he said. "They (the Board) wouldn't wholeheartedly accept this without lots of questions."

But the university has to be careful when it revises the policy. In 1983, MSU was placed on the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) list of censured administrations for wrongfully terminating faculty, according to a document made available at the Faculty Senate meeting.

PAC-26 was adopted as a result of the censuring and MSU was taken

SEE CHANGES — PAGE 2

New flu strand disrupts classes, campus

ALEXIS DAMIRON — Managing Editor

Coughing, sneezing and absenteeism have been common classroom afflictions at MSU for the past few weeks as a particularly nasty flu bug has afflicted a good portion of the campus population.

Many of those attacked said they received a flu shot in early winter but got sick anyway.

Kennith King, nurse administrator for the Caudill Health Clinic, said the CDC tries to predict what the flu will

be like the following winter season because it takes six months to manufacture a vaccine. Researchers look at the last flu and make an educated guess at how it will change.

"If a new flu comes in that is totally new compared to the previous year, the vaccine can't be replaced because it's not an overnight process [to make the vaccine]," King said.

King said the flu vaccine is not 100 percent effective even when the

vaccine strain matches the circulating virus.

King said MSU health services offered vaccines in early November in ADUC for several days, and then at the clinic after that, and administered about 900 vaccines.

Fay Skeens, a nurse at the Rowan County Health Clinic, said the health facility gave out several hundred flu vaccines this year.

The flu virus vaccine offered for this flu season does not match all of the circulating flu types, according to

the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

A chief of epidemiology and prevention at the Influenza Division of the CDC reported that the flu vaccine would not directly prevent two of the three types of flu affecting people during this season.

However, the CDC said the vaccine still minimizes the severity of the flu, especially for children, the elderly, and people with health conditions that make them vulnerable.

Dr. William Melahn, head physi-

cian at the Caudill Health Clinic, said the CDC monitors the flu type that is occurring on the opposite side of the world from the United States. The flu migrates west to east around the planet during the year.

"The flu in Asia six to eight months prior to now is the flu we have here now," Melahn said.

He said the flu virus is closely monitored because it changes every season.

Melahn said the vaccine offered for

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Policy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

declare that your program is no longer needed, and they become arbitrary to the dissenting point of view," Harford said. "I don't believe Dr. Hughes or Andrews would do that, but it opens the door for the next person who might."

Harford said he does not think this is a confrontation with the administration over any policy, but administration and faculty are both "confronting a situation we're not in control of."

Jerde said a new policy is going to be needed regardless, because even if MSU makes it through the budget cuts

unscathed, the program audit could require some personnel trimming. But as PAC-35 stands now, as the administration has presented it, "faculty are out of the loop."

The Faculty Senate has been working diligently to change that.

Since the entire Senate was given PAC-35 on Feb. 21 at its regular meeting, the proposed policy has undergone extreme revisions, Jerde said. At one point Senators decided to adopt Northern Kentucky University's policy for financial exigency and to draft a new policy regarding discontinuation and reduction of programs.

After the Senate voted to adopt Northern's policy, Jerde said President Andrews notified

him and said he wanted discontinuation of programs and exigency to remain in one comprehensive policy.

Senators have been collaborating on different policies and the Senate will vote today to decide which policy will be sent to the President's Cabinet for review.

Charles Patrick, chair of professional policies, said the Senate is really after shared governance with the administration.

"That's our biggest issue," he said. "Is it a combined policy of two separate policies - I don't really care as long as we deal with what needs to be dealt with, and that's faculty input."

Patrick also thinks the chances of MSU declaring

financial exigency because of the budget cuts is very slim. He was working at the university in the early '90s when the General Assembly included in its budget a 9-percent slash to higher education.

"The ramifications have haunted the system in Kentucky for years," Patrick said. "Only after 1997 and several years beyond, did we get to a place where we were able to recover in terms of salaries, equipment, travel and supplies. We worked for years on shoe strings trying to deal with issues."

Sociology Professor Suzanne Tallichet said PAC-35 does not strike her as a bad policy. But professors who haven't been doing their job might need to be worried.

"There's some dead wood among faculty and there's people who've not worked very hard over the years and all of a sudden they are worried about what's coming down," she said. "I am not worried in the least. I have done my job and I've worked very hard."

Tallichet said she does not think Andrews is trying to fire any particular faculty or do anything underhanded. She thinks people mistrust him because of the way previous administrations have dealt with faculty.

"Back during the Eaglin years, really, faculty had no rights and I think Andrews appears to be the real thing," she said. "He's given us no reason not to trust him."

Jerde agrees. He said he's discussed the trust issue with other faculty and the answers are the same.

"Why is there this tremendous lack of trust?" he said. "I think a lot of it is just legacy of promises being made and not kept."

Andrews said in unclear situations and with the severity of the budget cuts looming, faculty are very concerned but should trust him to do his job.

"Let those of us paid to do the work do it," Andrews said. "Let us spend time in Frankfort and trust the administration to preserve the integrity of MSU. I've been here for years, and I hope faculty and staff on campus know I'm going to do what's right for this institution."

Changes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

off the list in 1987, according to the document.

Andrews said this was just an opportunity to revise a policy that would be "difficult to enact during a financial crisis," and he doesn't know if PAC-35 would put MSU at risk of being placed under censure again.

In 1983, MSU did not have a policy governing the procedures to dismiss faculty, Andrews said.

PAC-26 identifies three causes for terminating a tenured faculty member: existence of cause, financial exigency and the discontinuation of programs. It outlines specific procedures and steps the administration must take in order to complete all three processes.

Andrews said he does not think existence of cause has "anything to do" with financial exigency and discontinuation of programs, so cause was not included in PAC-35.

In PAC-26, the Faculty

Senate plays a specific role when financial exigency is declared. The Senate elects nine faculty members to serve on three ad hoc committees, which would be chaired by Walters, Vice President for Academic Affairs Karla Hughes and the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee chair.

PAC-35 does not include ad hoc committees because of the time issue, Andrews said.

"I don't believe they are configured so that it adds anything to faculty protection," he said. "It adds bureaucracy and takes a lot of time."

Eric Jerde, chair of the Faculty Senate, said the Senate executive council received PAC-35 in a special meeting with the president and provost. The Senate was presented the policy on Feb. 21, and will vote on a finalized version before PAC-35 is sent to the President's Cabinet for review.

The Faculty Senate's role is to advise the administration on the policy, but the administration does not have to heed any suggestions. The Board of Regents has the final say when

it votes March 13.

The Faculty Senate has been working diligently to please everyone, Jerde said. He hopes the final version voted on today will be a compromise between recommendations of the Senate and the administration.

Jerde said Andrews told him he would be happy to "entertain any changes" the Senate makes as long as the policy answers three questions - does the policy operate in a timely fashion, does it protect faculty rights and does it protect the mission of the institution.

PAC-35 also includes a new provision for determining the sequence of dismissing tenured faculty. It states that tenured faculty will have preference of retention over non-tenured faculty members "within the same department, academic discipline and program."

If there are no tenured faculty, tenure-track faculty would be next in line for dismissal.

Also under the order of termination sequence, the administration added a section concerning "performance evalua-

tions, evidence of productivity, service, research, faculty rank and time of continuous employment with the University" that will be considered to determine the "order of release." According to the new policy, the faculty member who can "provide better overall performance... shall have preference."

Andrews said this section was added because it is appropriate to consider performance evaluations and the "totality of the faculty experience."

"It's not how many years you spent at a place, but how many years you spent doing what," he said.

Andrews said the administration is "primarily concerned" with tenure and tenure-track faculty because he doesn't know if it benefits the institution to protect non-tenured faculty before tenured and tenure-track people.

If financial exigency were to be declared, it would be a detailed process to determine which faculty would be released, he said. First, the provost would work with deans and department chairs to see "what efficiencies

would be gained by eliminating programs." If programs containing tenured or tenure-track faculty were designated for elimination, the administration would try to reassign those faculty.

"As a last recourse, the vice

president for academic affairs, department chairs and faculty would come forward with a list of people whose lives might be affected," Andrews said.

Search

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As sheriff of Menifee County he supervised an area of more than 200 square miles with a population of less than 10,000. Policing Morehead State University would mean surveillance of the same approximate population on just four square miles.

"It's quite a different way of doing police work," Coffey said, but he thinks he is up for the job.

James "Matt" Sparks thinks he is ready, also, after 21 years with the Kentucky State Police. He retired last year and currently works as an

inspector for Energy Management Services.

Sparks said he is anxious to get back to police work.

"Law enforcement is one of those things that gets in your blood," he said. "I've been retired for eight months now and just really looking forward to getting back into law enforcement."

Sparks said the security of students and faculty has to be a priority on campus and that holding commander positions with the State Police would make him prepared for the job.

Because he has two college-age children, Sparks said he is ready to work with a "younger crowd." It's not like

I'm a stranger to young people," he said.

Candidate Kenneth Adams has the longest experience in law enforcement. He has put in 25 years and is a Lieutenant with the City of Ashland Police Department. Adams wants to bring change to the MSU Police Department.

"I don't want to be stagnant, I want to move ahead. I want to be progressive and I'm looking for some place to do that," he said.

Adams said he would raise the bar for the MSU Police Department if he is hired and get more certifications for the department.

"The building blocks are there... let's don't sit here,

let's move ahead," he said.

Dean of Students Koett said he received about 30 evaluation forms from students and staff members for each candidate. On Tuesday Koett said the forms would be given to the search committee on Wednesday.

Vice President of Student Life Madonna Weathers said the search committee will then be able to make a recommendation.

The final decision will not be known for a longer period of time, because of extensive background checks and the finalist's duties to his current employer.

If financial exigency were to be declared, it would be a detailed process to determine which faculty would be released, he said. First, the provost would work with deans and department chairs to see "what efficiencies

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Flu

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the flu could never be perfect because the flu virus is always changing. Some of the cases in Kentucky do not match the vaccine offered. However, getting the vaccine will still reduce flu symptoms.

Melan said, "The flu this year is sporadic to moderate,

not severe or widespread like in the past."

King said the vaccine administered this year "is probably 89 percent effective" but some people who will get the flu a flu shot will still get the flu.

She said common symptoms of the flu are high fever, body aches and dehydration. When students come to the Canfield Health Clinic, physicians treat the symptoms.

MSU student Megan Faulkner said she had the flu the last week in February. Her symptoms included severe congestion, headache, stomach ache and weakness. She did not take any medicine, nor did she get a flu shot at the beginning of the season.

"I had heard the flu shots weren't working for this type of flu," Faulkner said. "So it wouldn't have done anything for me."

Jennifer Runyon, a junior, said she got a flu shot every year.

"I have a really bad immune system, and I don't want to get the flu," Runyon said. "My roommate has the flu now, and getting the vaccine has kept me from catching it."

Although the flu vaccine has not fully matched this year's flu virus, King said

there have not been a high number of flu cases on campus.

Another flu-like illness is affecting students, but lacks most of the symptoms and lasts a shorter length of time than the flu, she said.

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The Trail Blazer, an official publication of Morehead State University, is published every Thursday during regular semesters under the direction of the Board of Student Media. The Trail Blazer is a non-profit organization and intended at the Post Office in Morehead, Ky. (Postnet No. 55) under an act of Congress dated March 3, 1973. Morehead State University is an affirmative action, equal opportunity education institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, marital status, sex or handicap in employment, educational programs or activities set forth in Title VI, VII, and section 504.

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OPINION

March 6, 2008
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EDITORIAL

Felons could vote under proposed amendment

On Feb. 28, hundreds of Kentuckians rallied in Frankfort to lobby for a constitutional amendment that would allow convicted felons, with the exception of child molesters and murderers, to vote once released from prison.

According to the Lexington Herald-Leader, Kentucky is one of only three states to permanently deny felons the right to vote. There are 186,000 people who are disenfranchised in Kentucky - that is the sixth highest rate in the country.

It is time for Kentucky to move on. The Senate needs to pass the amendment and restore voting rights to deserving citizens. People make mistakes - many who have been stripped of their right to vote served paltry sentences for erroneous errors they made in their past. People learn from mistakes, and it is wrong to deny those a second chance.

Opponents of the bill say "once a criminal, always a criminal." Many believe that felons are released from prison only to commit crimes again. But in a system that breaks down a human's mental health, it is extremely difficult for felons when they are reintroduced to society. Employers will not hire ex-convicts, and finding housing is problematic.

Once the cold jail climate becomes custom for prisoners, it is hard to break free from that routine. If the government were to restore voting rights for felons, it might help them become "human" again and prisoners might be less likely to relapse and head right back to the lifestyle that first landed them in prison.

The Commonwealth must take a step in the right direction. For Kentucky to become "progressive," its citizens must recognize that people do make mistakes and deserve a second chance. If everything was black and white, there would still be slavery, women still would not be able to vote and schools would still be segregated. The shades of gray are what this country has thrived on for centuries. The shades of gray are the voices of change, and the voting rights of former prisoners is a change that needs to happen.

S.F.



ONLINE POLL

What qualities do you think are most important for MSU's new police chief?

To cast your vote on this week's issue, go to www.trailblazeronline.net

Do you have an opinion? Let us know!

The Trail Blazer welcomes reader responses. Letters should be 400 words or less and signed. Addresses and telephone numbers should be included (for verification purposes only). Letters must be received in Room 317 Breckinridge Hall or emailed to editor@trailblazeronline.net by 4 p.m. Friday for the next week's publication. The Trail Blazer reserves the right to edit letters for purposes of clarity, brevity and legal considerations.



Commentary Mock gunman terrorizes ECSU days after NIU tragedy



Alexis Damron
Managing Editor

On Feb. 22, just eight days after the Northern Illinois University shooting and less than a year after the tragedy at Virginia Tech, a North Carolina University held a mock gunman drill during classes.

Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) students and faculty were sent a text message five days earlier notifying them that a fake gunman would enter one of their classrooms in a specific building on campus that Friday. However, not everyone received the message, including the professor whose room was held

hostage.

The professor said a gunman entered the classroom, made some students stand against a wall and threatened to kill the person with the lowest grade point average. A police officer from the campus played the roll of the gunman and used a fake red plastic gun. The "gunman" claimed he had been expelled from school and needed an organ transplant.

The ordeal lasted 10 minutes before the university police ended the drill. During that time, the classroom professor said he prepared himself to die.

Similar drills like this have been initiated across the nation, but most were held on campus during Christmas break, when students were not present. Morehead State University has sent out text

text messages and e-mails to alert students about a possible emergency. But these tests seem meager compared to an actual mock gunman, which occurred in the wake of another school's fatal shooting.

ECSU could have picked a better time to run its drill. Although safety and precautions must be taken, it is inappropriate to hold a mock situation such as this while a fellow university is still in mourning.

It is questionable campus administrators could have been 100 percent certain all faculty, staff and students were receiving the emergency e-mails or text messages. Obviously not everyone was informed, and this situation could have ended a lot worse than just receiving negative publicity. The stu-

dents and teacher could have turned against the gunman trying to defend themselves, and severely hurt the officer in the process. Would it have been their fault if a university policeman was injured, if they were under the impression their own lives were in danger?

It is clear college campuses need to promote safety and practice emergency situations. However, an emergency situation could be caused just by holding a mock crisis and not ensuring that at least the professors know what is going on. Students and faculty should be on high alert for dangerous situations considering the events of this past year, but they do not need a fowled-up drill making matters worse.

Commentary Hints of spring end winter woes



Sarah Perry
Editor

It's never been a better time for the weather to tease us into spring break.

Monday, the sun was shining, the sky was clear and I think I even heard the birds

singing to me as I scurried across campus, trying to finish up my interviews for the week. What a busy time this is, and what a good time for the sun to be shining!

It seems as though every spring semester, right around midterms, the sun peeps out to say hello, offering a ray of hope that spring break is near. Every time I become anxious or stressed out

because of my work load, I see a sparkle of hope peak through the clouds, and I'm reminded that a reprieve is almost here.

Unfortunately, this week, I'll also be reminded that winter is not over. Winter's angry, depressing claws are still wrapped around my neck, squeezing the optimism and joy right out of me. Winter wants me to know

that he's here to stay, at least for a few more weeks - until spring can win the game and the wildflowers dot the hillsides.

But let's not lose hope. Let us all think of spring break, and the dandelions, black-eyed susie's and peonies that are waiting behind the next gray cloud.

Campus Comment

What qualities do you think are important for a police chief to have?

There are three final candidates for the position of MSU Police Chief. The Trail Blazer asked students what qualities are important.



Mallory Howard
Special Education Junior
Salyersville, Ky.

"He should know a lot about this campus and its students."



Megan Caldwell
Pre-physical Therapy Freshman
Hazard, Ky.

"He should be stern but have respect for other people."



John Williams
Industrial Technology
West Liberty, Ky.

"He needs a good track record."



Amberest Edinburg
Criminology Senior
Cincinnati, Ohio

"He needs experience and the ability to cooperate with college students."

CAMPUS LIFE

March 6, 2008
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Student escapes stress on horse

RACHEL HILL - STAFF WRITER

A 13-year-old girl hops onto the horse for the first time, excited and intimidated. Nine years later, she is competing for the Morehead State University Equestrian Team.

That little girl is junior Lakita Lykins, who says she has loved horses for as long as she can remember, and her first

day on a horse spiked her interest.

Lykins says riding horses started as a way she and her father could spend more time together – but now, it is much more than that.

She rides Tennessee Walking Horses and says they are her favorite because Walkers don't trot like other horses, so it allows for a

smoother more laid-back ride.

"I guess they will always be my favorite since that's what I started out on," Lykins says.

Lykins says for the equestrian team she shows Western, in intermediate II, which involves walking, jogging and hoping the horse while maintaining proper equitation, the position of the rider on the

horse. For walking horse shows, the horse flat walks and does a running walk, and equitation is not judged.

Lykins says she has only competed in two shows for the MSU equestrian team, taking home third place twice and sixth place once.

The best part about the equestrian team is meeting new people who also love horses and showing, she says.

Lykins says the moment she is most proud of was her recent win on her mare in the second show of the season where she was both the rider and trainer. She and her mare, Bluegrass, worked hard the week before she would place but the win came as a complete shock.

"I gave her a big kiss," Lykins says.

Lykins says she is only an amateur and doesn't have a trainer's license and can't train other riders, but acts as her own trainer with a lot of help from her mother and stepfather.

"I pretty much handle all the riding that has to be done before the show, the grooming, bathing and whatever else needs to be done to make sure

the show goes well," she says.

Showing horses takes a lot of time and effort. Lykins says she practices about two hours a week with the equestrian team, and during walking horse season she tries to ride every day of the week before the show.

She says the hard work is worth it.

"Riding has been my way of escaping stress," she says. "When things weren't going well with school or at home or whatever, I would go to the barn and it just relaxed me and helped me refocus."



Lakita Lykins kisses her mare, Bluegrass, after a recent win

Submitted Photo

Campus Calendar

March 6

Guest Recital:
Diana Amos, soprano, Duncan Recital Hall, 8 p.m., free

March 7

Sophomore Recital:
Aaron Gallagher, saxophone, Duncan Recital Hall, 7 p.m.

Baseball:

Eagles vs. Canisius College, Allen Field, 3 p.m.

March 8

Fourth Annual MSU String Day:
Baird Music Hall, all day, no admission

MSU Open House:

For Prospective Students, ADUC, 9 a.m.

Baseball:

MSU v. Canisius College, Allen Field, 1 p.m.

March 11

"A Comedy of Errors"
MSU Theatre, Burton Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.



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Dorm decorating contest

BETTY CHENEY - CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

The offices of First Year Programs and Student Housing recently sponsored the first MSU Crnbs contest.

First Year Program and Retention Director Lora Pace said the idea developed as a way to get pictures of rooms for publications and for use during 800R and New Student Days.

Dallas Sammons, director of housing, said the contest was run by First Year Programs but was a combined effort between the offices.

"Honoring staff and resident advisors encouraged students to participate," Sammons said.

Borrowing its name from the show MTV Crnbs, the contest judged rooms in the residence halls on design, use of space, and best school spirit.

Pace said winners included Mignon Hall 207, best overall design in a suite; Alumni Tower 812, best overall design in a double occupancy; Thompson Hall 207, best use of space; and Mignon Tower 505, best school spirit. Each room received a \$50 Wal-Mart gift card.

LeAnn Clevenger and Allison Stanley won with their room in Alumni Tower.

"We worked really hard putting a creative touch on our

dorm to make it feel like home," Stanley said.

Daniel Gover, one of the winners from the room in Mignon Tower, said his roommates talked him into entering.

"We figured there would be more money in it instead of splinting it with the whole room," Gover said. "We'll spend it on cleaning supplies so they can come and take pictures and what not."

Rooms were judged by staff members not affiliated with First Year Programs or the Office of Student Housing, Pace said.

She said the judges were amazed at the creativity and ideas people had.

"The room in Mignon Hall used a beach theme and had a tiki hut," Pace said. "They used compact discs as wall borders in the Alumni Tower room."

The school spirit room used eagle borders and had athletic posters on the walls. Best use of space incorporated stacked furniture and curtains to make a separate living area and bedroom.

Pace said she hopes to have the contest again next year.

She said, "We enjoyed it –

going around to the residence halls and meeting the students."



LeAnn Clevenger and Allison Stanley study in their winning room in Alumni Tower.



Emerging Leaders Symposium Graduates 2008

The following students attended the full day ELS program on Friday, February 29 and are now recognized as the first class of the ELS program. Congratulations!

Shanae Allen
Whitney Bailey
Kimberly Baker
Tamera Bald
Katelyn Barbour
Melissa Barnett
Matthew Bitley
Christine Bowling
Arlana Bradford
Kirstie Brangers
Danielle Bunch
Sean Carter
Amanda Cartmel
Molly Cinquegrani
Chris Conklin
Amelia Conway
Kelsey Cronin
David Daniel Jr.
John Duggins
Charles Dunaway
Darin English
Allison Evans
Jenny Everman
Weylin Fairchild
Bernadette Fiske
Amanda Faust
Steven Fife
Sara Fitzpatrick
Zach Goble
Dustin Grooms
Chris Hamilton
Chelsea Hamilton
John Hawkins
Cody Hawkins
Micaela Hornstein
Nathan Hudson
Casey Hufford

Lakala Humes
Daniel Jackson
Donna Jenkins
Adam Lawrence
Meredith Lortie
Robert May
Jared May
Juan Melendez
Morgan Melzer
Nathan Mills
Megan Murphy
Kayleigh Nickell
Victoria Page
Natalie Peterson
Chris Prichard
Ashleigh Rodriguez
Nick Rose
Aaron Rose
Lindsey Ruddell
Kyle Sargent
Britton Sloat
Matthew Slone
Savannah Slone
Shannon Smith
Miranda Smith
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Wayne Staggs
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Writer shares war stories

Journalist says never get too comfortable with surroundings in a volatile atmosphere



Photo by Carlo Jager

Lexington Herald-Leader reporter Jamie Gumbrecht last week talks about reporting in Iraq with MSU students.

SARAH PERRY - Editor

She sat at her desk and concentrated on the computer screen, attempting to spurt out another story before her deadline was up. Suddenly, she heard a blast, and another. An improvised explosive device (IED) had just exploded outside her hotel.

Her co-workers quickly assured her this was okay. The windows didn't shake — this was a "normal, safe neighborhood."

Jamie Gumbrecht, 25, was in the heart of an area considered one of the most dangerous on earth — Baghdad, Iraq.

Gumbrecht, a Lexington Herald-Leader culture writer, just returned from a six-week tour of Baghdad and shared her story on Feb. 28 with students in the Department of Communication and Theatre.

She said hearing bombs and IEDs explode was typical in Iraq.

"This really showed me our (U.S. citizens) definition of safe wasn't the same," Gumbrecht said. "This was not normal."

To cope with such a volatile atmosphere, Gumbrecht had to complete a weeklong session of hostile environment training at a camp near Washington, D.C. She was taught to "never get too comfortable with her surroundings," Gumbrecht said.

Gumbrecht has a history of volunteering for risky journalism assignments. While a student at Michigan State University, she worked for the campus daily, The State News, and also for the Detroit Free Press. She said during college,

she volunteered to cover Hurricane Katrina and spent a week in the aftermath.

She began building her career by completing professional internships at the Dallas Morning News, the Atlanta Journal Constitution and the Lansing State Journal. She said when she graduated in 2004, she sent out resumes and clippings to any newspaper outside of Michigan.

The Herald-Leader was the first newspaper that called, and after she accepted a position as culture writer, the paper announced it needed a volunteer for Iraq. She said there was "no question" about volunteering.

While in Iraq, she covered many assignments as an embedded reporter with a Kentucky National Guard unit and troops with the Fort Campbell 101st Airborne Division. She interviewed National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and General David Petraeus.

Gumbrecht said safety wasn't always the first consideration during interviews. When she was asking questions, getting answers was the only thing she was worried about.

"My job was to interview this person," she said. "To stay focused, you have to segment things in your brain."

Being a journalist in Iraq was much different than in the United States, she said. At home, a public official is only a phone call away, but because of the language barriers and security checkpoints, landing an interview could take up to three days in Iraq, she said.

And after waiting for days and being snuffed down by dogs and held up for two hours at the checkpoints, sometimes it was all for nothing if the official would not talk.

Gumbrecht was based with the McClatchy Company news bureau, which owns the Herald-Leader. She said most McClatchy reporters were Iraq and they provided a segue into the Iraq culture.

Many times, because of the language barrier and because local officials were more responsive to Iraqi reporters, Gumbrecht would arm the reporters with questions and send them out to do interviews. She said she had to be careful to not make a bad judgment call.

"I was terrified I would send them somewhere they would be injured or killed," she said.

But she tried to not be afraid in her environment. She said fear was what placed people in many compromising situations, and she would talk herself out of being afraid.

"I lived 16 hours a day on adrenaline," she said.

"You could choose to dwell on it (fear), but you'd never get anything done," Gumbrecht said. "I didn't even notice the adrenaline rush. When I got back, I was shocked by how exhausted I was."

Reporting in Iraq taught Gumbrecht just how lucky Americans are.

She said, though danger is around every corner and people get blown up daily, people have lives the same as in the United States — they cook,

they shop, they worry, they sleep.

But Gumbrecht worries about how long Iraqis can go on trying to live normal lives.

"There are human limits," she said. "I wonder how long before people reach that limit. How long before people just hide in their homes."

Americans forget there is a war raging, Gumbrecht said.

"I do think this war is going to impact us, whether we realize it or not," she said.

Despite the harsh environment, Gumbrecht said she loved her job and hopes to return to Iraq.

"I would absolutely go back," she said. "It was important work, it was good work."

Gumbrecht is currently finishing up two stories from her stay in Iraq. She said there are many more stories to tell, and she has a list of stories to follow up on.

It is hard being hundreds of miles away from the environment she lived in for six weeks, she said. Gumbrecht is currently working in Iraq to suggest story ideas. She also maintains contact with Iraqi staffers she worked with and a couple of people she interviewed.

And in Iraq, the story never ends.

"There are hundreds of untold stories," she said. "Everything is a story, every little thing."

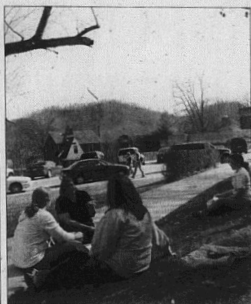


Photo by Carlo Jager

Dr. Karen Taylor teaches her women's studies course Monday outside of Breckinridge Hall.

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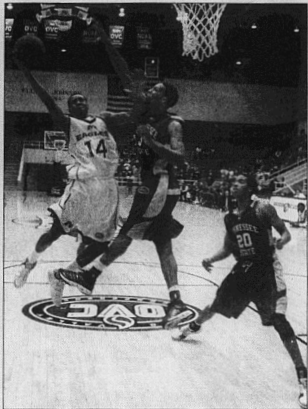
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MSU's Leon Buchanan tries for two points but fails to score. The Eagles saw their season end Tuesday night with a 68-61 loss to Tennessee State in the first round of the OVC tournament.



Jamyron Steward goes for a layup against strong defense from Tennessee State's Jerrel Houston.

Tigers rip Eagles in first round of OVC tournament

MSU can't pull off another miracle against Tennessee State; loses 68-61

CARLO ANGERER — Sports Editor

Less than a week after the Eagles beat Tennessee State in regular season play, they faced the Tigers again at home — this time in the first round of the OVC tournament.

Last Thursday MSU won after trailing by 20 points. On Tuesday they could not pull it off and lost 68-61.

MSU Senior Nikola Stojakovic couldn't find an answer for the loss.

"I don't know," he said. "It was a tough game, both teams played really hard."

MSU scored first on a two-point layup from freshman Kenneth Faried at 1:08 into the game. But it wasn't long before the Eagles started losing control.

Morehead State couldn't handle the pressure and had more problems passing than in previous games. The team turned the ball over and missed passes. A pass by Nikola Stojakovic to Jamyron Steward in the second minute ended up out of bounds.

Both teams started off fast but Tennessee State got better shots and took the lead early in the first quarter.

The Eagles tried to fight back. They scored points but their defense couldn't slow down the Tigers.

Tennessee State's Bruce Price scored three points with 8:37 left in the first period and was matched by Jamyron Steward just 18 seconds later.

With two minutes left in the first half the Eagles got their defense straight, but still had problems scoring. They got to the basket, but couldn't get the ball in. The

Tigers won most of the rebound battles under the rim.
Stojakovic hit a three-pointer just before the buzzer to end the first half and the Eagles went into the locker room down 32-26.

In the second half the Eagles came out ready to take back the lead, just as they had done in Tuesday night's game.

"We came back, but we could never really come back."

Jamyron Steward — MSU basketball player

But TSU scored first on a two-point jumper from Jerrell Houston.

At the 18:41 mark, Jamyron Steward scored a three-pointer with a layup and cut TSU's lead to 31-34.

But every time the Eagles got close to taking the lead TSU struck back.

With 5:04 left in the game the Eagles came within one point of TSU. With the score at 56-55 Stojakovic passed the ball to Freshman Kenneth Faried in the paint, but Faried dropped it.

"He was wide open — he was gonna have a layup," MSU coach Donnie Tyndall said. "When freshmen are in tough positions they have never been in, some nights they're gonna look like a million dollars and other nights they are

gonna disappoint you. Kenneth had a fantastic year, but on that particular play he didn't finish it for us."

Tennessee State held onto its lead for the remainder of the game.

"We came back, but could never really come back," Steward said. "If we could have started off like we ended, we would have been in great shape."

Both Tyndall and Steward said Tennessee State was a tougher team on the court in the tournament game compared to Thursday's regular season game.

"They played real hard. I gotta give them credit," Steward said. "Down the stretch we turned the ball over a couple of times."

The Eagles had 19 turnovers and six steals for the game compared to TSU's 16 turnovers and 43 steals.

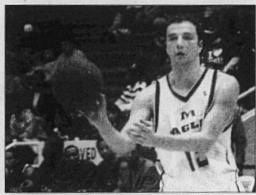
"When you let [the Tigers] play in transition or you just turn it over and they are just dunking balls, then they are obviously very, very good and 19 turnovers is just too many," Tyndall said.

Tyndall said, based on what his players accomplished this season, they are ahead of schedule in rebuilding the program.

MSU will lose just two seniors this year — Nikola Stojakovic and Jamyron Steward.

But the loss was still disappointing, Tyndall said, to finish third and think you can go to Nashville, the OVC finals site, and win it.

The Eagles finish the season with an overall record of 15-15 and 12-8 in the OVC.



Senior Nikola Stojakovic now holds the MSU total career assists record with 329.



MSU fans cheer for the Eagles Tuesday night.

After losing in OVC tournament, look ahead!

From the Sports Desk

CARLO ANGERER — Sports Editor



It was a heartbreaking loss for the Eagles in the first round of the OVC tournament against Tennessee State.

Just five days before they had come back from trailing 20 points behind the Tigers and won the game 64-76.

They couldn't pull off the miracle a second time, and left Tuesday night in Johnson Arena.

It didn't work out this season to get to the semifinal, but with the experience the team takes away from this season it will be easier for them

next season to get into the OVC tournament and stay there.

MSU Coach Donnie Tyndall is right when he says the team is ahead of schedule when it comes to rebuilding.

The Eagles will only lose two seniors, Nikola Stojakovic (The all-time MSU record holder in assists) and Jamyron Steward — two great seniors. But there are enough freshmen, sophomores and juniors left on the team, that can step up.

Lady Eagles fall in 1st round

CARLO ANGERER — Sports Editor

The Morehead State women's basketball team lost to Murray State 87-61 in the first round of the OVC tournament Tuesday night at Murray.

Murray State took a 46-26 halftime lead shooting 55.6 percent while MSU only shot 32 percent during the first period.

In the second half MSU trailed by more than 30 points.

Sophomore Brittany Pittman led the Eagles with 21 points, followed by senior Tami Combs with 14 points. Fellow MSU Senior Anitha Smith-Williams had a game-high nine assists and a team-high six rebounds during her last game for the Lady Eagles.

Eagle of the Week

Chris Burns — Staff Writer

Sophomore softball player Bianca Cardenas has been named Eagle of the Week for her accomplishments last weekend at the Frost Classic in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Cardenas contributed significantly to the Morehead State softball team's historic 12-0 start.

Before the season started, Cardenas focused on her hitting, catching, and being a team player.

"I want to be a team player, and do what I need to do when needed," Cardenas said.

Cardenas plays designated hitter and, when needed, catcher. The talented athlete came into the Frost Classic last weekend with a hot bat, and it got hotter as the weekend went on.

Against U-CONN, Cardenas drove in four runs off one swing of the bat in the first inning. The Grand Slam was the second homer of her career. The Eagles went on to defeat the Huskies, 10-2.

On Sunday against Wright State, Cardenas once again showed she had the ability to lead the Eagles to a victory. She led her 4-for-4 assault off with an RBI single in the first inning, which helped the Eagles to a 5-4 victory.

Cardenas is hitting .429 with a .619 slugging percentage and a .478 on-base percentage. She attributes her success to her positive attitude.

"If I'm struggling on something, I'll take the time out and fix it," Cardenas said.

Cardenas can see her team going a long way this season.

"If we keep playing the way we are playing, we can win conference and have a good shot at the tournament," she said.

Cardenas hopes to continue her success this weekend as the Eagles play six games at home against Oakland, West Liberty State, and Dayton.

Ladies finish regular season with two wins

CARLO ANGERER — Sports Editor

The Morehead State women's basketball team finished its regular OVC season with a record of 9-11 for the No. 6 seed to head into the tournament. The Lady Eagles faced third-seeded Murray State Tuesday night (see page 6 for coverage) after two home wins last week against Austin Peay and Tennessee State.

Thursday night they defeated Tennessee State 67-64 to secure the OVC tournament spot.

MSU freshman Chynna Bozeman said she was excited and the hard practice finally paid off.

On Saturday they topped the success with a 43-40 win over Austin Peay. In the first seven minutes the Lady Eagles did not allow the Lady Governors to score a single point. With 13:03 left in the first quarter they lead 11-0.

Austin Peay fought back and closed the gap to a three-point lead during the last minutes of the first half.

"We had a chance to really bury them,"

MSU coach Mike Bradbury said. "We just didn't shoot it very well. We had open shots that we normally make, [but didn't]. That's how they caught up."

MSU was able to rescue a 22-17 lead into halftime. The second period was tougher for the Lady Eagles as they only lead by two points at times. In the end they kept their lead and won the game 43-40.

"We didn't play very well throughout the game, but down the stretch we played very well," Bradbury said.

MSU Senior Tarah Combs lead the team with 15 points, followed by Brandi Rayburn with nine points.

Rayburn said "when it came down to the stretch, we played really good defense. We guarded and rebounded the ball, when we really needed to."

It was the last home game for Combs and fellow Senior Anitha Smith-Williams.



Photos by Carlo Angerer

MSU pitcher Michael Bottoms pitched a complete game against Buffalo.

MSU baseball team wins three of four against Buffalo

CARLO ANGERER — Sports Editor

The Morehead State baseball team is 4-3 early in this season after sweeping Saturday's games against the University of Buffalo, N.Y., and splitting the doubleheader

on Sunday.

MSU opened the home series with a 3-2 win in the seven-inning game Saturday night and beat Buffalo 7-6 in nine innings in the nightcap.

Morehead State's Eric Allen scored a three-run homer in the 5-1 win Sunday afternoon. Buffalo won the last game of the weekend 10-3.



Photos by Carlo Angerer

Morehead State's Anitha Smith-Williams tries to escape the APSU defense.

Track earns 6th in OVC tourney

CARLO ANGERER — Sports Editor

The Morehead State men's track and field team finished sixth at the OVC indoor track and field championship in Nashville, Tenn. Ron Duncan, Morgan Sloas, Chris Smith, Josh Wakeman and James Bowers placed third in the distance medley in 10:18.84. This was the best placement for MSU in the tournament. Overall the Morehead State team earned 10 points. This year's champion Eastern Kentucky University lead with 147 points.

Tennessee State won the women's competition. The MSU women's team members competed only individually. Jessica Reyes led the team with 10th place in the 1-mile run in a time of 5:15.57.

Softball on a roll with 12-0 start

CARLO ANGERER — Sports Editor

With three more wins over the weekend, the Lady Eagle Softball team increased its record-setting start to 12-0, the best start in the history of the program.

On Sunday the Lady Eagles defeated Wright State 5-4 in their final game at the Frost Classic.

They defeated Connecticut 10-2 and Jackson State 8-0, both in just five innings, on Saturday.

The first home game for the Morehead State Softball team will be tomorrow against Oakland University. The doubleheader is scheduled for 2 p.m.

Rollercoaster games ahead of tournament

CARLO ANGERER — Sports Editor

Before heading into the OVC tournament's first round against Tennessee State (see page 6 for coverage) the Morehead State men's basketball team had one win and one loss at home this week.

Thursday night the Eagles won against Tennessee State 84-76 after a big turn-around. In the first minute of the second half they had trailed 22 points, but came back with the support of Junior Leon Buchanan and Freshman Kenneth Faried, who scored 23 points each.

After the win on Thursday night, Saturday brought a loss to Johnson Arena.

MSU faced OVC regular season champion Austin Peay. The Eagles were strong against the Governors early in the game.

With 8:20 left in the first

half MSU and APSU were tied at 20-20, but then Austin Peay started its attack and pulled ahead by 20 points. In the end MSU lost 72-56.

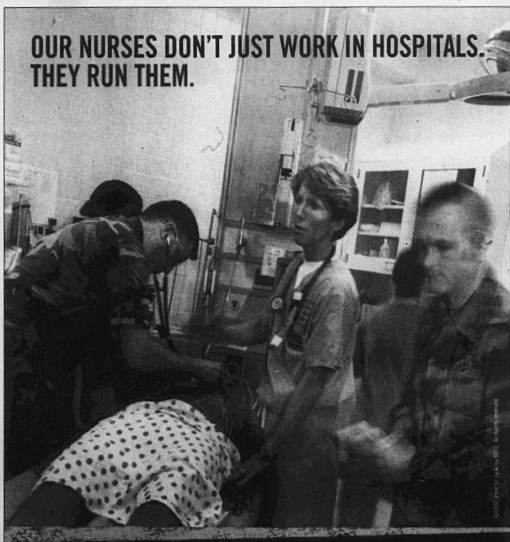
"Austin Peay did a better job of guarding us when we tried to make our run," MSU coach Donnie Tyndall said.

MSU hit just 37.5 percent of its field goals.

"I think it's twofold. We might have been a little tired after our game against Tennessee State and the big comeback," Tyndall said. "The second thing is simply Austin Peay is a good defensive team. They contest every shot."

The Eagles finished the regular OVC season 12-8 for third place behind Austin Peay and Murray State, followed by Tennessee-Martin.

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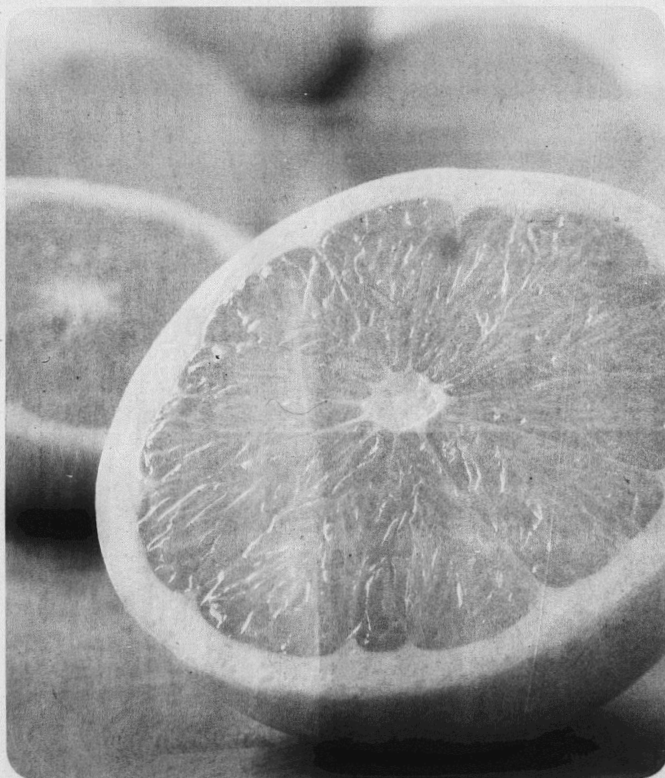
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